



Message from the (Former) Chair

By Myron S. Greenberg*

The term "mentor" comes from Homer's epic, the Odyssey. Before Ulysses embarked to fight the Trojan War and later to go on his long adventure, he chose his wise, learned and trusted friend, Mentor, to guide and teach his son, Telemachus. Mentor acted faithfully as teacher, adviser, friend and surrogate father to Telemachus throughout the 20 years that Ulysses was away. Later, when Athene visits Telemachus, she takes the form of Mentor (some have speculated that, based on this, Mentor was, in fact, the goddess Athene).

The Greeks believed that we learn skills, culture and values from people whom we look up to or admire. Central

qualities of mentoring are that it is intentional, nurturing, insightful and supportive. Some of the terms that describe a mentor are: guide, advisor, teacher, coach and consultant. The principles of mentoring have been important elements in the continuity of art, commerce and crafts from ancient times. The master/apprentice relationship within the craft guilds of the Middle Ages is a good example of this.

Today, some 3,500 years after Homer's Odyssey, mentoring relationships are still valued. Research indicates that mentoring can be an important factor in a professional's success. What



Myron S. Greenberg

mentoring provides is a safe, protected environment in which one can learn lessons beyond what is found in books. A protégé benefits from the mentor's experience.

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Dawn Gray: A Unique Family Law Specialist

By James W. Talley*



Dawn Gray & Husband, Michael

Dawn Gray was admitted to the California Bar in December of 1983, after earning her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego Law School. While in law school, she spent 1-1/2 years clerking with Certified Family Law Specialist Jim Allen of the San Diego law firm of McDonald and Allen. After being admitted to the bar, she practiced as an associate with McDonald and Allen, and eventually joined the law offices of Trisha Smith where she worked on the famous Betty/Dan Broderick case.

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rience without having to go through the trial and error of learning those same lessons over the years. Time is compressed; mistakes need not be repeated. Valuable lessons, knowledge, and attitudes are passed on.

A mentor guides a *protégé* in acquiring knowledge, skills, and methods which the mentor has developed during their career. Examples in the legal profession range from the mundane, such as the use of forms (e.g., pleading forms, contract forms, etc.) and setting up accounting and filing systems, to the complex, such as technical legal questions, case management, law firm politics, and ethical responsibilities.

The most effective mentors:

- want to share their knowledge, materials, skill, and experience with those they mentor;
- offer support, challenge, patience and enthusiasm while they guide others to new levels of competence;
- point the way and represent tangible evidence of what one can become.

The traditional model of a mentor in

the legal profession is that of the wise, caring and loyal partner who tutors, guides and promotes the professional advancement of the inexperienced associate. Although this model exists, it is rare. While in larger or medium size firms this traditional model may still exist, in the case of a small firm or sole practitioner, the opportunities for mentoring or finding a mentor are few. As a result, the mentoring of lawyers in these situations must differ from the traditional model to meet the realities of law practices in the modern legal world.

If mentoring were only a means for aspiring young lawyers to gain a career foothold or to be given a boost up the career ladder, it would be a one-way street and would find little attraction for the mentor. In fact, mentoring relationships must be reciprocal if they are to achieve their fullest potential. As a result, mentors must, and do, derive many benefits from the relationship.

Mentors find pleasure in sharing the wisdom gained from their own experience. They enjoy the energy, creativity, enthusiasm, eagerness and fresh perspectives of the attorneys they mentor. They also take satisfaction in influencing the future direction of the legal profession by helping prepare the next generation of lawyers.

Attorneys who become mentors have an opportunity to think about what they know and how their knowledge might benefit someone else. Mentoring offers a time for self-assessment and reflection on the experiences that have enriched the mentor's own career, which can itself be a revitalizing antidote to the everyday travails of law practice. And, among the strongest and most compelling reasons people become mentors is the desire that one's work and influence "live on." The nurturing and influencing of younger lawyers and the facilitation of their efforts to mature and

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**To contribute to the Digest,
please e-mail**

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The Legal Specialization Digest is a bi-annual newsletter written by and for certified specialists, containing articles of interest to legal specialists. The Digest also contains periodic updates on the certification program, general information from the State Bar and the Board of Legal Specialization, columns from the BLS Chair and BLS members, attorney profiles, and more.

BLS Volunteer Awards Luncheon

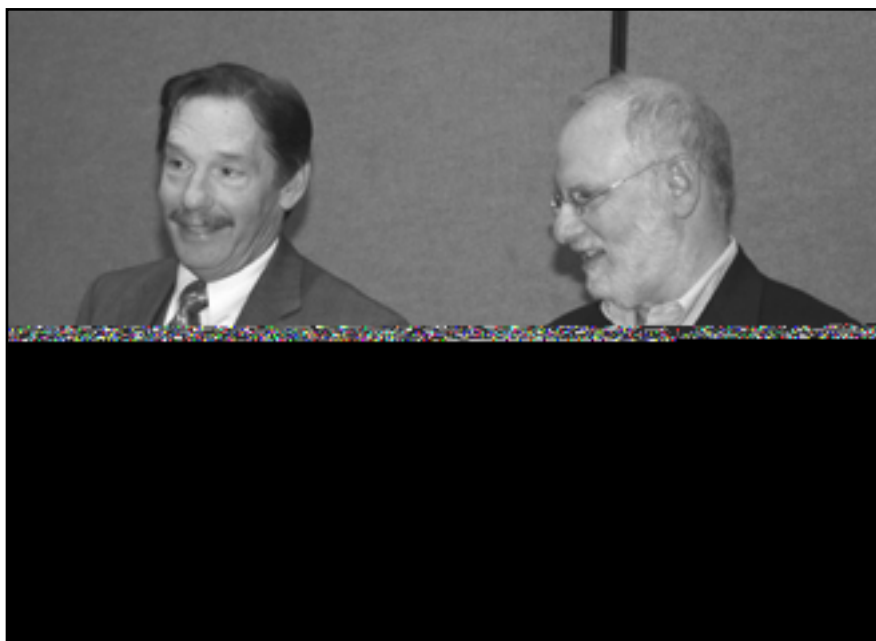
On September 27, 2007, the Board of Legal Specialization (BLS) hosted its annual luncheon to show appreciation to the outgoing volunteer officers and members of its Advisory Commissions. For the first time, the BLS also honored volunteers who contributed frequently to the radio show “Your Legal Rights” (see article on page 5). ■



Outgoing BLS chair Myron Greenberg receives award from his successor, Alice O'Sullivan



Jeff Bleich, President of The State Bar of California, expressed his appreciation of the Legal Specialization program to the attendees



Edward Litwin (left), multitasks by returning his completed Advisory Commission work materials while he accepts his certificate of service from Myron Greenberg as the outgoing Immigration & Nationality Law AC chair

BLS Provides 800 Number for Legal Radio Show

Certified Specialists are Welcome to Participate

This year marks the 24th anniversary of “Your Legal Rights,” a public service radio program designed to educate the public about their legal rights and consumer rights by emphasizing prevention and self-help.

This also marks the first year that the Board of Legal Specialization (BLS) decided to honor at its annual awards luncheon those certified specialists who have made a significant contribution to the program through their frequent appearances. BLS has been sponsoring approximately 18 programs per year for the last 17 years. Produced at and broadcast on San Francisco’s KALW-FM Public Radio station (91.7 FM), the program airs live every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on KALW and the station’s web site (<http://www.kalw.org>)

HTTP WWW CALIFORNIASPECIALIST ORG

Lawyers aspire to be proficient both
at public speaking and writing to

Peruse

While on the subject of incorporating precise, though less familiar words and terms in court, a caution is in order, namely that one must be careful that they are very familiar with such terms before they employ them. A case in point is the word **peruse**. Until approximately two years ago, I incorrectly understood the word **peruse** to mean a brief scanning or cursory review of written material. As a result, I know that I used the word (incorrectly) in my arguments and pleadings several times over the years. Imagine my embarrassment upon finding that the word **peruse** is defined as “reading through with thoroughness or care, to survey or examine in detail.”

* * *

As mentioned in a previous Lex Lingua piece, any mistake in the use of words (wrong word, mispronunciation, or misspelling, etc.) is a solecism. The following are just a few of the pronunciation solecisms I have heard uttered in open Court or seen in legal documents during my three and a half decades of practicing law.

Spelling	Correct	Incorrect
applicable	ap-li-kə-bəl	ə-plik-ə-bəl
asterisk	as-tə-risk	as-tə-rik
comparable	komp-pə-rə-bəl	kəm-pair-ə-bəl
heinous	hay-nəs or hee-nəs	hee-nee-is
interesting	in-trə-sting	in-ə-res-ting
irrevocable	i-rev-ə-k ə -bəl	ir-ə-voh-kə-bel
liaison	lee-ə-zahn or lay-ə-zahn	lee-ay-zahn
preferable	pref-ər-ə-bəl	pri-fər-ə-bəl
substantive	səb-stən-tiv	səb-stə-nə-tiv or seb-stan-tiv

A special case of mispronunciation that I hear with alarming frequency is the word remuneration which is correctly pronounced ri-myū-nə-rà-shən. The chronic mispronunciation of this word is ré-noom-ər-ay-shən. It may occur as a result of what is known as metathesis--the transposition of sounds, syllabus or letters in a word. An alternate theory as to why remuneration is so often mispronounced is because the word refers to the payment of money thus the temptation is to pronounce it as an alliteration of the word numeral.

Clearly, the art of effective persuasion involves keeping the judge or jury interested in what a lawyer has to say or has written. To pull this off, it is often effective to use a play on words that come in different forms but fall under the collective heading of trope. The term trope is defined as “the use of a word or phrase in a sense different from its ordinary meaning; the use of a figure of speech.” The individual forms or species of tropes are the following:

Metaphor, which involves the implied comparison between two different things, such as a prosecutor referring to the alleged murderer as having a “heart of stone.”

Simile - a statement that one thing is like another, for instance a judge characterizing a defendant convicted of cheating elderly people of out their life’s savings as having the “conscience of a snake.”

Synecdoche – a figure of speech by which a part is used to describe the whole or, vice versa, the whole used to describe the part. A familiar example for everyone who has followed the news of the wars in the Middle East is the phrase “boots on the ground,” which involved the use of combat boots to represent the soldiers who wore them.

Clearly, the use of the tropes in various forms can be effective providing the author understands how to employ them and when to employ them.

To close this exercise, I offer the word **antonomasia**, which is the correct term for a practice that virtually everyone employs when making court appearances. Antonomasia is defined as “the use of an epithet or title instead of a person’s name,” such as attorneys referring to the judge as “Your Honor” and judges in turn referring to the attorneys as “Counselor.” Similarly, referring to members of law enforcement as “officer,” a member of a jury as “juror” or the other essential members of any courtroom staff as “madam clerk” or “madam reporter” are also exercises in **antonomasia**. ■

The Board of Legal Specialization Would Like to Congratulate and Welcome the Following Certified Specialists to the Legal Specialization Program

(March 1, 2007 through October 1, 2007)

Appellate Law

John A. Colucci	Studio City
Cynthia J. Larsen	Sacramento
David P. Pruett	Long Beach
Wilson Adam Schooley	La Mesa
Jonathan d. Soglin	San Francisco
Margaret C. Toledo	Sacramento
Robert H. Wright	Encino

JoAnne R. Harris	Fairfield
Julie M. Hill	Riverside
Suzy Knowlton	Carlsbad
Tanya Leydiker	Walnut Creek
Stephanie L. Mahdavi	Westlake Village
Michael P. McDeavitt	Pleasanton
Jennifer A. Mello	San Jose
Jessica N. Metoyer	San Francisco
Sandra Ai Mori	San Francisco
Alexandra Mussallem	San Rafael
Martin Roy Nichols	Santa Cruz
Doreen M. Olson	Los Angeles
Stacey D. Poole	San Francisco
Michelle L. Ralph	Newport Beach
Shannon Richards	Napa
Susan J. Sanders-Young	Poway
Carl E. Sizemore	San Diego
Carolyn P. Struck	Modesto
Thomas W. Tuttle	Newport Beach
Ann F. VanDePol	Oakland
Mary Dinius White	Los Angeles

Bankruptcy Law

Nicholas A. Franke	St. Louis, MO
James Thomas King	Glendale
Robert K. Lee	Los Angeles

Criminal Law

Anna C. Beles	Oakland
Maureen V. Green	Lancaster
Jonathan T. Laba	Richmond
Jeffrey W. Mangar	Modesto
Michael Conroy McMahon	Ventura
Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen Jr	Riverside

Immigration and Nationality Law

Elsie Hui Arias	Los Angeles
David Bellamy Gardner	Los Angeles
Stacey L. Gartland	San Francisco
Robert F. Jacobs	Santa Fe Springs

Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law

Veronica Koneski Cerruti	Danville
Ella J. Duncanson	Palo Alto
Michael C. Gerson	Santa Barbara
H. Rey Caguioa Gervacio	Campbell
Laurelle M. Gutierrez-	
Lundquist	Burlingame
Bridget McInerney Harris	Walnut Creek
Maureen Barbara Isaacson	Calabasas
Ute M. Isbill	Carmel by the Sea
Annette M. Knox	Walnut Creek
Cheri L. Kurman	Camarillo
Lisa M. LaFourcade	Costa Mesa
Daniel Francis Morrin	San Diego
Jennifer L. Thaete	Livermore
Paul D. Velasco	Long Beach
Carolyn West	Oakland

Workers' Compensation Law

Christine I. Allen	Sacramento
Bert-Ola G. Andersson	Sacramento
Max Breall	Novato
Joei L. Cherry	Los Angeles
Linda J. Condra	San Diego
Teri R. Dietrich	Riverside
Adam D. Dombchik	Los Angeles
Daniel H. Hunt	San Jose
Juliet K. Kingsbury	Los Angeles
Elan C. Lambert	Oakland
Kirk K. Livermont	Independence
Julie E. Lotz	Woodland Hills
Catherine A. Martinez	Sacramento
Frank J. Mastroni	Anaheim
Albert A. Navarra	Newport Beach
Eric E. Ostling	Sacramento
Ronald A. Peters	San Jose
Margo M. Riviera-Myers	Thousand Oaks
Steven N. Schroth	Redding
David M. Skaggs	Thousand Oaks
Valerie A. Smith	San Jose
Sean M. Sullivan	Redwood Shores
Richard Zaks	Glendale
Nerice M. Zavala	Los Angeles

Family Law

Robert A. Benavente	Costa Mesa
Pamela L. Bradford	Vista
Michelle Brenot	Campbell
Geraldine Doherty Brown	Merced
Robert B. Burch	Irvine
Rosanne E. Calbo-Jackson	Oakland
James W. Choate III	Pleasanton
Rosemary Coleman	Pasadena
Sharon V. Cooper	Sacramento
Shannon L. Fernandez	Santa Maria
Jessica R. Flores	Santa Rosa
Rosemarie Gallegos	Whittier
Jamie E. Gross	Beverly Hills

National Board of Trial Advocacy/National Board of Legal Specialty Certification

Program in Social Security Disability Advocacy Accredited by State Bar

On May 11, 2007, the Board of Governors granted accreditation to the National Board of Trial Advocacy/National Board of Legal Specialty Certification for their certification program in Social Security Disability Advocacy. Under Rule of Professional Conduct 1-400(D)(6), an attorney may not advertise as a "certified specialist" unless the attorney is certified either by the State Bar's Board

of Legal Specialization or another entity accredited by the State Bar. When using the term "certified specialist," the attorney must also identify the certifying body. Attorneys certified by the NBTA/NBLSC may now advertise that fact and will be identified as such in the *Parker Directory* and on the State Bar website.

Accreditation of the certification program in Social Security Disability Advocacy brings to 12 the number

of accredited certification programs, which also include business bankruptcy law, consumer bankruptcy law, creditors' rights, elder law, civil trial advocacy, criminal trial advocacy, family law trial advocacy, juvenile law (child welfare), accounting malpractice, medical malpractice, and legal malpractice. To find attorneys certified in those areas, use the Specialist Search function at www.californiaspecialist.org. ■

Message from the (Former) Chair *Continued from Page 2*

progress in their practices can fulfill the generative needs of a mentor. Finally, the act of mentoring also allows one to repay, in some measure, the intrinsic benefits he or she has derived from the profession.

Some lawyers have expressed reservations that if they mentor a young lawyer they may lose clients to a talented *protégé*. But the realities are exactly the opposite! A mentor becomes known as an expert and, more often than not, is referred additional clients, either by the *protégé* directly, or indirectly through the mentor's reputation.

I have personally experienced all of this. Several years ago, I began mentoring a young lawyer who was just starting her career in the estate planning field (which is what most of my practice encompasses). She was the only lawyer in her small firm doing this work, and had no one to bounce ideas off of, review documents she had never before drafted, or ask questions about areas she did not understand or of which she was unsure. I was able to help her in the technical areas of estate and trust law

and to give unvarnished advice about her practice, including how to generate new clients and organize her work. I was able to save her from falling into common traps and to point out some things that she may have been too busy to notice. I found that by assuming the role as her mentor, I was greatly rewarded. Although not something that motivated me to become her mentor, it even resulted in some new business for me when she referred an occasional matter where she had a conflict of interest, or that was beyond her area of expertise or comfort level.

However, the most rewarding aspect of being her mentor occurred when she recently passed the Board's specialty exam in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. When she became a Certified Specialist, the *pièce de résistance* is that it is my signature on her Specialization Certificate as Chair of the Board of Legal Specialization!

It is my hope that over the next several years, the Board of Legal Specialization will develop its own mentor program to enable young lawyers to find mentors who can help them become Certified Specialists and for Certified Specialists

to find *protégés* and enjoy the rewards of being a mentor.

Whatever your situation, even if there is not yet such a program in place, I urge you to consider becoming a mentor. As a Certified Specialist, you are in a unique position to help young lawyers advance their careers and to become Certified Specialists themselves. Having been both a *protégé* and a mentor, I truly believe that, if you are lucky enough to be given the gift of being a mentor, the relationship will be beneficial to you, to our Certified Specialists program and to our profession. ■

**Myron S. Greenberg is certified in Taxation Law by The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. He practices tax, estate planning probate and trust administration law in Larkspur, California. He is also licensed as a CPA. He is the former Chair of the California Board of Legal Specialization and past President of both the Marin County Bar Association and the Marin County Estate Planning Council.*

Dawn Gray

Continued from Page 1

During her time practicing family law in San Diego, she also had the good fortune to practice before Judges Tony Joseph and Tom Murphy who were both honored by the State Bar Family Law Section as family Judicial Officer of the year.

In 1990, Dawn accepted a position with California Family Law Report (CFLR) which is owned and operated by California Family Law guru Steven Adams. Dawn describes Steve Adams as having “an amazing ability to analyze family law cases” and that her work with CFLR was a mountaintop experience. It was also during her tenure with CFLR that she took and passed the Certified Specialist exam in Family Law in 1991. During the period with CFLR, she also spent a great deal of time tracking family law legislation, which led to her being asked to serve as legislative coordinator for the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS).

After joining ACFLS, she served both on the board of directors and as president in 2004. As part of her ongoing duties with ACFLS, she chairs the committee that writes amicus briefs on family law appeals, including such recent high profile appellate decisions as the *Harris* case on grandparent visitation, and the California Supreme Court ruling in the *Elkins* case regarding local family law rules.

Feeling the need to establish her own practice, Dawn went out on her own in 1994, specializing in research, writing trial briefs, points and authorities and preparing trial preparation memos for other attorneys, particularly those specializing in complicated and high asset/income family law cases. Because of her considerable talent in working with computers and other law office technology, she acquired the nicknames “Gadget Girl” and “Techno-Geek,” both of which she takes as left-handed compliments.

Apropos of her nicknames, Dawn admits to an addiction for acquiring every new technical office gadget available.

What also sets Dawn’s practice apart is that she lives in and practices California family law from North Carolina, where she lives with her husband, Michael Schwartz, and his three college-age children, Jeremy, Eric, and Jessica. As Dawn puts it, her ability to practice California family law from North Carolina is made possible by the modern technology that she loves so much, including computers, e-mails, faxes, telephonic communication, and lots of other gadgets as well.

In addition to her law practice, Dawn is coauthor with Stephen J. Wagner of the Lexis book series *Complex Issues in California Family Law* as well as a contributing editor to the *California Family Law Monthly*. Despite the ability to run her practice out of North Carolina, Dawn makes regular trips to California to present continuing education classes, participate in ACFLS events, and attend the State Bar annual meeting.

As to Dawn’s nonprofessional pursuits, she loves to camp RV-style with her husband Michael on the outer banks of North Carolina, and indulg-

es in science fiction books. This past June, she and Michael spent three weeks traveling in Israel and attending the Tel Aviv wedding of Michael’s oldest son, Jeremy. Dawn and Michael also toured many of Israel’s historical archeological sites, including Masada, assorted Roman ruins, and the old city of Jerusalem. Dawn reports that the highlight of their visit to Jerusalem was visiting the famous Western Wall. While in Israel, Dawn also amused herself by floating in the Dead Sea, as well as indulging herself in the therapeutic benefits of covering herself with Dead Sea Mud. Dawn can be reached by e-mail at dawn_gray@earthlink.net. ■

**James W. Talley is certified as a specialist in both Family Law (1980) and Workers’ Compensation Law (1987) by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Mr. Talley is a past president of the Bar Association of Northern San Diego County (1985); Vice President of the San Diego County Bar Association (2002-2005) Board of Directors, and member of the editorial board of the State Bar Legal Specialization Digest.*



Bryan Hartnell, Estate Planning Commission member (left) joins Legal Specialization AC liaison Brad Watson and Immigration Specialist Linda Nakamura at the BLS booth during the Annual Meeting in Anaheim.

30-Year Legal Specialists Honored

Specialists who have been certified for 20 and 30 years were honored by the Board of Legal Specialization (BLS) on September 28, 2007 at its annual breakfast reception held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The class of 1977 honorees included nine taxation law specialists, 10 workers' compensation law specialists, and 18 criminal law specialists. Making up the class of 1987 were 25 taxation law specialists, 19 workers' compensation law specialists, six criminal law specialists, and 32 family law specialists.

Featured speakers at the reception were Richard L. Dombrow, BLS certified family law specialist, and Michael C. Ferguson, BLS certified estate planning, trust and probate law specialist, speaking on "Starting New Specialties." ■



*30-year Certified Specialists, (front l-r): John Cahners, Joseph Milchen, Jan Ronis;
(rear) Robert Bovshow and Myron Greenberg*

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